

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 17-21, 23-25, and 28-33 are pending in this application. Claims 12-16, 22, 26, and 27 are cancelled herein.

In the 2nd paragraph of the Office Action, Applicants are required to elect a single invention from the two groups of claims Group I (claims 1-10, 17-21, 23-25, and 28-33) or Group II (claims 12-16, 22, 26, and 27). Applicants herein elect the invention Examiner has identified as Group I.

Accordingly, claims 12-16, 22, 26, and 27 are canceled without prejudice. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The claims have been cancelled as requested by Examiner to expedite the prosecution of the application in a manner consistent with the Patent Office Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000). In canceling claims 12-16, 22, 26, and 27, Applicants have not and do not narrow the scope of the protection to which Applicants consider the claimed invention to be entitled and do not concede that the subject matter of such claims was in fact disclosed or taught by any prior art. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seek to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

Applicants kindly request examination of the application as amended herein and prompt allowance of claims 1-10, 17-21, 23-25, and 28-33.

Respectfully submitted,
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